

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 13-15 were previously canceled.

Please amend claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16 and 17; cancel claims 2, 3, 7 and 8; and add new claims 18 and 19, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A trailer hitch assembly comprising: a trailer tongue, a hitch catch, said hitch catch releasably connected to said trailer tongue, said hitch catch for coupling to a towing vehicle, a tongue lock, said tongue lock for insertion into said trailer tongue when said hitch catch is removed from said trailer tongue, said tongue lock comprising a pair of retractable arms.
- 2.-3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) The trailer hitch assembly of ~~claim 2~~ claim 1 wherein said tongue lock is key operated.
5. (Currently Amended) The trailer hitch assembly of ~~claim 2~~ claim 1 further comprising a pin, said pin for connecting said hitch catch to said trailer tongue.
6. (Currently Amended) A trailer hitch assembly for coupling with a trailer hitch on a towing vehicle comprising: a tubular trailer tongue, a hitch catch,

said hitch catch comprising a tubular body sized to slide within said trailer tongue, and a ball catch, said ball catch attached to said tubular body, a tongue lock, said tongue lock for insertion into said trailer tongue when said hitch catch is removed therefrom, said tongue lock comprising a first retractable arm.

7.-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The trailer hitch assembly of ~~claim 7~~ claim 6 wherein said trailer tongue defines an arm opening, said arm opening for receiving said retractable lock arm.

10. (Currently Amended) The trailer hitch assembly of ~~claim 7~~ claim 6 wherein said tongue lock comprises a ~~pair of retractable lock arms~~ second retractable arm.

11. (Currently Amended) The trailer hitch assembly of claim 10 wherein said trailer tongue defines a pair of arm openings, said ~~pair of lock~~ first and said second retractable arms for positioning in said pair of arm openings.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of coupling a trailer with a trailer tongue to a towing vehicle having an attached hitch comprising the steps of:

- a) modifying the trailer tongue to receive a hitch catch therein;
- b) placing a hitch catch within the trailer tongue;

and

- c) coupling the hitch catch to ~~the towing vehicle.~~  
a towing vehicle;
- d) removing the hitch catch from the trailer tongue,  
and thereafter
- e) obstructing the trailer tongue with a tongue  
lock.

13.-15 (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 further comprises the step of removing the hitch catch from the trailer tongue and inserting a tongue lock therein.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 further comprises the step of locking the trailer tongue by extending a pair of ~~lock~~ retractable arms from the tongue lock through arm openings in the trailer tongue.

18. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein obstructing the trailer tongue comprises the step of inserting a tongue lock having a retractable arm.

19. (New) The method of claim 18 further comprises the step of rotating the tongue lock to extend the retractable arm.